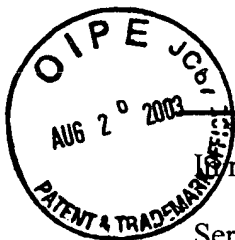


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re the application of: Jan Eirik Ellingsen *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/010,140

Filed: December 6, 2001

For: *Medical Prosthetic Devices and Implants Having Improved Biocompatibility*

Attorney Docket No.: AWZ-003 (Formerly PVZ-003)



Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: David J. Isabella

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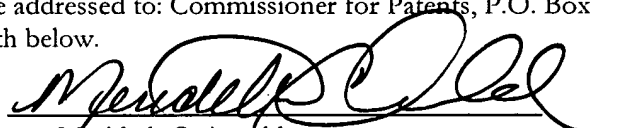
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I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to therein as enclosed are being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service as Express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

August 26, 2003

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

By


Merideth C. Arnold

Reg. No. 52,568

Attorney for Applicants

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office action dated February 26, 2003 in connection with the above-identified patent application. A request for a three-month extension of time and the requisite fee are filed concurrently herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows: